GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:638
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2016
Legal Emigration
Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge demand of domestic helps and house nurses abroad;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to make systematic and legal emigration for them;
(d) if so, the details thereof;
(e) whether the Government has conducted any study to know the working conditions of domestic helps, nurses and other Indian workers working in foreign countries;
(f) if so, the details thereof; and
(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) The Government regulates the emigration of Emigration Check Required (ECR) category passport holders going for employment to the 18 ECR countries, namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, UAE and Yemen. It is evident from data on workers granted emigration clearance over the past three years, (given in Annexure) that there is a demand for Indian workers abroad. This data includes details of domestic maids and house nurses who would have gone abroad after taking emigration clearance.

(c) & (d) The Emigration Act, 1983, regulates the terms and conditions of overseas employment and seeks to protect and safeguard the interests of Indian workers going overseas for employment on contractual basis.

Some of the specific measures for the protection of female domestic household workers in the above category include a minimum age restriction of 30 years for eligibility to migrate and mandatory pre-attestation of the employment contract by the Indian Mission. The employer is also required to provide a prepaid mobile phone and make a deposit of a security amount of US$2500 with the Indian Mission.

The Government has signed MOUs/Agreements on labour with major labour receiving countries, namely, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Malaysia, to lay down the framework for bilateral cooperation for the protection and welfare of workers.

(e) to (g) The erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has partly funded the Centre for Development Studies, Kerala for publishing the following papers concerning overseas migrants:

(i) Transnational Masculinity: Indian Nurses' Husbands in Ireland.
(ii) Nurse emigration from Kerala: "Brain circulation" or "Trap".

These papers were included in a book relating to social costs of migration.